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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: Benton, Jason

Docket: MB 388

Applicant(s): Andreas Schondelmaier et al.

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In Response To
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Title: DRIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE

Commissioner for Patents
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SIR:

Response After Final Rejection

This is in response to the Official Action dated 08/11/05, which was made final by the Examiner and in accordance with today's discussion with the Examiner's Supervisor, Mr. Henry Yuen.

The Examiner has rejected the present application under 35 USC 102(c) as being anticipated by US 6 604 494 (Shrzypchak et al.).

In accordance with Mr Yuen's request, the differences between the subject matter as claimed in claim 1 of corresponding areas of the present application and the cited reference are pointed out as follows:

In the arrangement according to the invention, the power electronic unit 1 is supported on a carrier 2, 3, which is mounted to the engine housing 10.

In the cited prior art, the power electronic unit 100 is mounted directly onto the engine 101.

In the arrangement according to the invention, the carrier 2, 3 is a cooler which has a support face with coolant inlets and outlets 4 and is directly mounted on the engine such that the coolant inlets and outlets 4 in the support face are in direct sealed communication with coolant passages 11 of a cooling circuit of the internal combustion engine.

In the cited prior art, the cooler (water passage 134) is mounted onto the electronic control unit 100 and has coolant inlets and outlets 136, 138 (water hose connectors - see column 3, lines 3ff) for connection to the cooling circuit of the engine via hoses.

It should be quite clear from this comparison of the corresponding areas and features of a mounting and cooling arrangement for an electronic control unit of an internal combustion engine that the features according to the invention are quite different from those of the cited prior art.

In fact, the various details of the arrangement according to the invention differ in principle from those of the cited prior art so that the present invention is not only novel over the cited prior art, but the prior art provides also no hint or suggestion which would point a person skilled in the art toward the arrangement as defined in claim 1. It would rather lead a person skilled in the art away from the arrangement as defined in claim 1 of the present application.

The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of claim 1 and allow this claim together with claims 2 to 5, which are dependent on claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,



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